



Tutoring at Boys & Girls Club boosts academic success

by Terri Jack, Washington Service Corps



Krysta and Lena building a positive attitude toward learning.

Krysta first began volunteering at the Boys & Girls Club in the spring of 2009. She was looking for opportunities to complete volunteer hours for her high-school health class.

Kaitie Swengel, a Washington Service Corps member serving as a volunteer coordinator with the club, matched Krysta with Lena, a fourth grader in their after school tutoring program.

Lena had been fighting a constant battle with her math homework. She needed one-on-one attention and a boost of confidence. Fortunately, the two young ladies bonded right away, and, after their first meeting together, Lena looked forward every day to meeting with her tutor.

Kaitie and Krysta developed a plan that kept Lena engaged and excited about her academics. They

devoted one day a week to homework and another day for social bonding: playing games or working on art projects.

By maintaining the schedule, Krysta and Lena accomplished both program goals: completing Lena's homework and building a positive attitude toward learning. Best of all, Krysta became more than a tutor; she also was a role model and friend.

"It was such a pleasure working with Lena and Krysta and watching their development," said Kaitie. "Seeing their relationship flourish proved to me the importance of getting to know everyone involved to ensure a good quality match and that we really change lives through service."

Lena successfully completed fourth grade and greatly improved her math skills, including multiplication and long division. Krysta achieved a small step toward her future goals of becoming an elementary school teacher, and she plans to continue tutoring while in college.

"I feel so lucky and satisfied to have a hand in this tutor match," reflected Kaitie. "Things aren't always simple, but a success like this makes it all worth it, and makes me feel proud to be a part of such a great program and the Washington Service Corps."

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